

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01445 092128Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
DHA-02 ORM-02 HEW-04 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI
SUBJECT: 62D ECOSOC--HUMAN RIGHTS, ITEM 12

REF: (A) STATE 104339
(B) STATE 104799
(C) STATE 103755
(D) STATE 103583

1. SOCIAL COMMITTEE COMPLETED ACTION FRIDAY, MAY 6 ON
ITEM 12, HUMAN RIGHTS. TREAT OF THE ITEM AS A WHOLE
WAS RELATIVELY LOW-KEY, WITH THE MAJORITY OF ATTENTION
DEVOTED TO RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THE RE-
PORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC). ONLY ONE NEW
PROPOSAL WAS TABLED, THE DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF
A WORKING GROUP OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES FOR THE PUR-
POSE OF ANALYSING DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL ON TORTURE, AND
THIS WAS WITHDRAWN WITHOUT A VOTE.

2. RESULTS OF VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN THE
REPORT OF THE HRC (E/5927) WERE AS FOLLOWS:
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01445 092128Z

DRAFT RESOLUTION A--REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ADOPTED BY CON-
SENSUS. THE NIGERIAN PROPOSAL (REF (A)) CONTAINED A
SEPARATE DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE GA
DECLARE 1978 AS INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR WAS
ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

DRAFT RESOLUTION B--ADOPTED BY VOTE OF 28-0-5(US).

DRAFT DECISIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, AND 6 ADOPTED BY
CONSENSUS.

DRAFT DECISION 5--ADOPTED 36-1(US)-5. CANADA WAS
ABSENT DURING THE VOTE BUT LATER STATED FOR THE RECORD
THAT IT WOULD HAVE VOTED "NO".

DRAFT DECISION 7--WAS REPLACED BY A LENGTHIER BUT
ESSENTIALLY PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY ALGERIA,
COLOMBIA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, RWANDA, TUNISIA AND YUGO-
SLAVIA AND CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/AC.7/L.735. THIS
RESOLUTION WAS TABLED DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION AND
US DEL JOINED IN CONSENSUS. IF DEPT SEES ANY PROBLEMS
WITH THIS RESOLUTION, WE CAN STATE ANY NECESSARY RESER-
VATIONS IN PLENARY.

DRAFT DECISION 8-- WAS REPLACED WITH THE ITALIAN
DRAFT (REF (B)) WHICH WAS AMENDED AT SUGGESTION OF US
DEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPT SUGGESTIONS.

3. THE DRAFT DECISION TABLED BY THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUB-
LIC, EGYPT AND JORDAN (REF (C)) WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE
OF 34-2(US, CANADA)-12.

4. THE DEBATE ON THE NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL (REF (D)) TO
CREATE A WORKING GROUP OF THE SUB-COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE
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PAGE 03 USUN N 01445 092128Z

OF ANALYZING DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL ON TORTURE BROUGHT
OUT ARGENTINA, CUBA AND THE USSR AS PRINCIPAL OP-
PONENTS AGAINST SETTING UP SUCH A WORKING GROUP. ARGENTINA
ARGUED THAT ANY REVIEW OF THE DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL
SHOULD BE CONDUCTED ONLY UNDER THE 1503 PROCEDURES.
CUBA ALSO ARGUED AGAINST PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE MATERIAL
AND AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROCEDURES. IN RES-
PONSE TO QUESTIONING THE SECRETARIAT (MAZOUT) EXPLAINED
THAT THE DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL IN QUESTION WAS LIMITED
TO REPORTS SUBMITTED BY GOVERNMENTS AND DID NOT EXTEND
TO COMMUNICATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND FROM NGO'S SUCH
AS ARE INCLUDED UNDER THE 1503 PROCEDURES. US DEL
(LOWENSTEIN) ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE AN UNFORTUNATE PRE-
CEDENT TO SUGGEST THAT ALL SENSITIVE TOPICS SUCH AS
TORTURE SHOULD EVENTUALLY BE HIDDEN UNDER THE CLOAK OF
THE 1503 PROCEDURES. THE REVIEW OF THE DOCUMENTARY
MATERIAL BY THE SUB-COMMISSION IS NOT NOW CONDUCTED IN
PRIVATE SESSIONS AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY A PRELI-
MINARY REVIEW BY A WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN

PRIVATE SESSION.

5. AS WAS THE CASE WHEN THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE
ISSUE OF A WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS IN CONNECTION
WITH THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN, THE NEW COMBINATION OF SENSITIVE LATIN STATES
PLUS THE TRADITIONAL OPPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE ACTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES (EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES PLUS
CUBA) COMBINED TO MAKE PASSAGE OF THE NETHERLANDS
RESOLUTION IMPOSSIBLE. THE NETHERLANDS DECIDED TO
WITHDRAW THEIR DRAFT RATHER THAN HAVE THE PROPOSAL
DEFEATED IN A VOTE.
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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